

April 21, 2022

Dear Legislator:

This is a crucial time for educators. We are taking stock of where our support is and where it is not. We hope that you will stand with public education and the people who keep it running.

We have reached that point in the legislative session where we hope to persuade you to take action on critical issues that are affecting our public schools, educators, and students. Many times during this session we have heard you declare the vital role that public schools and educators played in keeping education ongoing during the pandemic. We faced poorly ventilated classrooms, we transitioned learning plans to entirely new platforms, and we have cared for some of the most fragile students we have ever faced. Now it is time for you to act in a manner that acknowledges and supports those efforts.

The bills and issues below will form the cornerstone of our report card on legislators for this session:

1. **Improve harmful School Indoor Air Quality (SB 423):** You've heard from educators and parents. You know that the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff is at stake. This has been before the legislature in previous years—humane temperature standards for children (we have them for pet stores), and assistance through school construction bonding, is long overdue. Failure to pass this commonsense protection this session will be inexcusable.
2. **Reverse the Educator Shortage in Connecticut (SB 427):** You can help save the education profession from shortages and defections through incentives to attract and retain teachers and other educators. This should include retirement system improvements, including phased-in TRS COVID credit.
3. **Prohibit "dual-teaching"** that requires educators to simultaneously divide their attention between in-person and remote students. A recent study by the University of California said this practice leads to "chaos" and an increase in absent or disengaged students.

These priorities are born of our membership of over 40,000 educators statewide – educators who have demanded that we call for action to support their efforts. They follow your votes, actions, and the lack thereof on these issues. Our members care, they vote, they pay taxes, and they want to see change.

Teachers have gone above and beyond to ensure in-person learning and safe, healthy conditions in Connecticut's public schools, but we cannot do it alone, and we cannot do it without legislative commitment and the funding that makes safe, in-person learning possible. Will you make that commitment to our schools and our students?

Public education is the great equalizer in our society, but only if we invest in it. There has never been a more important time to stand with educators.

Sincerely,



Kate Dias, CEA President



Joslyn DeLancey, CEA Vice President